

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 09/684,103  
Applicant : Douglas U. Mennie et al.  
Filed : October 5, 2000  
TC/A.U. : 3653  
Examiner : Jeffrey A. Shapiro  
  
Docket No. : 47171-00271USP1  
Customer No. : 30223

Confirmation No. : 31371-18004  
18/C  
Jewell

REPLY TO THE OFFICE ACTION MAILED OCTOBER 21, 2003

Mail Stop No-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner For Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING  
37 C.F.R. 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop No-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 29, 2003.

Adrienne White

Dear Commissioner:

This paper is submitted in reply to the Office Action mailed October 21, 2003 for which the three-month date for response is January 21, 2004. This paper is being submitted prior to that date. In response to the Office Action mailed October 21, 2003, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider the following remarks.

The Applicants' **Listing of Claims** begins on page 2 of this paper.

The Applicants' **Remarks** begin on page 11 of this paper.

RECEIVED  
JAN 06 2004  
GROUP 3600